

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:SPOULAIN:SM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

FOR VEST FROM KING

FOLLOWING ITEM APPEARED IN TODAY'S "WASHINGTON POST," NO
BYLINE:

NITZE OUT AS APPOINTEE FOR PENTAGON

PAUL H. NITZE WILL NOT BE NOMINATED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, WHITE HOUSE
COUNSELOR BRYCE HARLOW SAID LAST NIGHT.

HARLOW SAID THE APPOINTMENT "WOULD BE EXTREMELY CONTROVER-
SIAL TO PEOPLE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE PRESIDENT."

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE APPOINTMENT, RECOMMENDED BY SECRE-
TARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER AND OPPOSED BY SEN.
BARRY GOLDWATER (R-ARIZ.), WAS NOT BEING HELD UP BECAUSE OF
THE CONTROVERSY OVER IMPEACHMENT.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SENATE AND HOUSE MEMBERS "WHO ARE
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VIOLENTLY OPPOSED" TO THE NOMINATION, HARLOW SAID.

SCHLESINGER WAS COUNTING HEAVILY ON NITZE, AN EXPERIENCED SPECIALIST IN DEFENSE AND DIPLOMATIC AFFAIRS, TO HELP HIM RUN THE SECURITY AFFAIRS OFFICE. THAT OFFICE IS THE PENTAGON'S MINI-STATE DEPARTMENT, AND NITZE WAS WIDELY VIEWED WITHIN THE PENTAGON AS BEING ONE OF A FEW OFFICIALS WHO COULD HELP RELIEVE SOME OF THE BURDEN ON SCHLESINGER IN TERMS OF DEFENSE-RELATED FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS.

THOUGH OBJECTED TO BY GOLDWATER, IT WAS WIDELY HELD THAT THERE WERE ENOUGH VOTES ON THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR NITZE'S CONFIRMATION. SIMILARLY, THOUGH NITZE HAS WORKED PRIMARILY FOR DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATIONS, HE HAS SERVED THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION FOR FIVE YEARS -- WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTION -- AS A KEY MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

UNQUOTE.

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